

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 237
By Southerland

A RESOLUTION to commend Ray McElhaney for his honorable and astute service to the people of Tennessee as the Executive Director of Douglas Cherokee Economic Authority.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those estimable public servants who have dedicated themselves to improving the quality of life for their fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, Ray McElhaney is one such estimable person who evinces the greatest integrity and probity in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, throughout his exemplary tenure as the Executive Director of Douglas Cherokee Economic Authority (DCEA), the largest Community Action Agency in Tennessee, Mr. McElhaney has distinguished himself as a public-spirited citizen of the highest order and as an exceptional asset to his community; and

WHEREAS, this dedicated professional has served DCEA for a meritorious thirty-seven years; and

WHEREAS, raised in Grainger County, Tennessee, Mr. McElhaney has spent most of his life helping the fine people of East Tennessee; he has a keen sense of the needs of his community and uses his numerous talents and capabilities to help the poor and unfortunate; and

WHEREAS, Ray McElhaney's exceptional leadership skills stem from his extensive knowledge of people and area resources; he has a background in rural and urban economic development and thoroughly understands the needs of the poor; and

WHEREAS, because of his expertise and creative ideas on how to meet the needs of those seeking his services, Ray McElhaney has arranged construction for more than 1,600 units of Section 202 and Section 811 housing units; and

WHEREAS, Mr. McElhaney's combination of talent and business savvy has enabled DCEA to expand its services to operate approximately thirty-five projects at a funding level of \$15 million dollars; and

WHEREAS, Ray McElhaney's remarkable success as a public servant and civic leader is directly attributable to his reliance on the time-honored values of hard work and common sense and his uncommon ability to work well with people from all walks of life; and

WHEREAS, Ray McElhaney is an extremely giving person who often reaches out with compassion to people whom life has treated unkindly, and he epitomizes the ideal of the consummate professional, dedicated public servant, and reliable friend and neighbor; and

WHEREAS, Ray McElhaney is wholly committed to the noble precepts of public service that have earned Tennessee recognition as the "Volunteer State," and he should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby commend Ray McElhaney for his honorable and astute service to the good people of Tennessee as the Executive Director of Douglas Cherokee Economic Authority and salute his unswerving commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.